

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 26, 2015

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Suprenant, Henke, Shay, Haff, Pitts, O'Brien, Armstrong

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

SUPERVISORS: Lindsay, LaPointe, Gang, Idleman, Campbell

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Anthony White, Probation Director

Tony Jordan, District Attorney

Sheriff Murphy

Bill Cook, Public Safety Director

Tim Hardy, Deputy Director Public Safety-Communications

Jonathan Pease, Deputy Director Public Safety

Ashlee Zinn, Public Safety Dispatch

Ray Rathbun, Fire Coordinator

Jim Chase, Fire

Bruce Mason, EMS Coordinator

Anthony White, Probation Director

Mike Gray, Alternative Sentencing/Youth

Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – April 28, 2015
- 3) Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. District Attorney 2015
 - a. Discuss Staffing Needs
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairman Suprenant called the meeting to order at 1:18 P.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2015 meeting was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Tony Jordan, DA, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Crime Victim Breakfast Awards – Requesting approval for a gift certificate awarded at the Crime Victim Breakfast Awards Ceremony to an individual from Fort Edward and dog treats for the canine award recipient totaling \$61.09. A motion to approve purchases was moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.
- Staffing Needs – In regard to the NY Civil Liberties lawsuit settlement and need for counsel at first appearance, there will be a need to increase staff. Currently his staff is spending on average 50 to 55 hours a week and that does not include felony trials. They are putting these hours in on a regular basis covering regular court and if they have to go to appearances it will be an additional time commitment. The additional personnel needed would be two additional Assistant District Attorneys and would like to look into a scale for wages, i.e. first year associate wage like a tiered structure. The Public Defender received money to address these changes but not the District Attorney. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, explained we have parity now in how staff is paid in the various departments with legal staff; i.e. first assistants and Deputy positions at the same pay. The juvenile age change will impact the Probation Department first. Should have more information by budget time and personnel will be addressed through the budget process.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Probation – Unpaid Internship - A motion to approve unpaid internship in the Probation Department for a college student from Cambridge who attends Nichols College, Dudley MA starting June 8th for 60 hours was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shay and adopted.

Glens Falls Lions Club Duathlon – As part of the Lion's Club permitting process to host a duathlon on Sunday October 11, 2015, NYS DOT requires approval by all local governing bodies for road use. The route starts at SUNY Adirondack and travels through the towns of Queensbury and Kingsbury. The duathlon is held to raise funds to enable the organization to continue its work providing sight and hearing assistance and preservation. A motion to approve Lions Club Duathlon request for approval to use Washington County roads for duathlon scheduled for October 11, 2015 was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted. A motion to add wording to allow approval of annual Lions Club Duathlon request by the Public Safety Committee was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.

Burch Hill Tower – Report received on Burch Hill Tower and estimated cost for drawings to make the modifications for the required repairs, bad guidewires and sections requiring structural integrity work, is \$3200. The drawings are required in order to make the repairs and the cost of the repairs is unknown at this time. There are time constraints with these repairs due to a Vermont Tele grant. A motion to approve \$3200 for drawings required for repairs to Burch Hill Tower was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Henke and adopted. Mr. Cook has funds within his budget for this expense and will move forward with the drawings.

Public Safety Director Retirement - Bill Cook, Public Safety Director, is retiring and his last day is June 6th. Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Cook to provide some background on the establishment of the 911 Center. In 1975, it became a dispatch center. It has been operating independently and doing so it is a very neutral environment, an equal opportunity dispatch center, and it has worked very well. He hopes the Board would leave it as it is running today. There has been a lot of time and effort put into building what we have today; one of the nicest new facilities. He is not leaving for any reasons associated with the dispatch center. There has been a learning curve with the staff going from the old environment to the new environment in one day and some CAD problems otherwise running as designed. The County has left the 911 Center under Public Safety for the neutrality. Mr. Campbell thanked him for his 31 years of service. Mr. Haff asked how do we address this vacancy. Bill stated he submitted his retirement paperwork on May 13th. Mr. Lindsay stated the office will operate. Mr. Armstrong suggested looking at the office, is the way we are running the best or go in another direction to save us money doing it differently. Mr. O'Brien stated it is just not a 911 Center there are multiple other duties and responsibilities of the department.

CAD System Issues – Tim Hardy, Communications Director, stated right now there are some concerns with the stability of the system from a 911 standpoint. If the system is not stable and crashing, it is impacting police, fire and EMS from doing their jobs. The system is crashing frequently. They have been working with IT and the vendor on what is causing the crashes. Stability issues to the point were it is affecting the way they do busy. This is a safety issue. It is frustrating because they are ten months into this new system and still experiencing issues. The company has switched hands during this process. This is a difficult job when the tools do not work. Staff does their best to track the system problems. One of the vendor technicians is on site today. IT does not think the problems being experienced are on our end and are working with the vendor to make sure it is not. Work logs are being reviewed by both the IT staff and the vendor. IT has a concern with constantly rebooting the system to keep it stable and that is not a long term solution. They are doing everything they can to ensure it is not our problem. The Sheriff recommends formalizing communications and put the company on a timeline with the outstanding issues. The Sheriff's Department is up and running with Civil and RMS with very few problems. Mr. O'Brien stated the J2 issues need to be identified, communicated and

they need a game plan and structure for approaching problems. Mr. Cook stated he was not comfortable with this project from the beginning noticing many items that represented big red flags to him. He stated the vendor was overwhelmed from the start. Verizon was driving the project per Kevin Hayes, County Administrator. Mr. Cook concurred noting we could have stopped Verizon at any time but it would have created a two month delay so they worked hard to keep everything going in the right direction. Mr. Hayes stated he never heard that before that the cut over to Verizon could be delayed. The Sheriff stated this company wanted to come into New York is why we received the good price for the system. Tim Hardy stated we are currently at 301 days operational since going live and the boots have been on the ground here today and on and off over the last ten months and the troubling part for them is that they are still experiencing the same problems they have been dealing with for ten months which is concerning. Noting it would take from twelve to eighteen months for another vendor to get a CAD system developed and up and running. The best alternative for everyone is to get this system up and running. This is stressing the staff and liability concerns. They have had up to twenty five conference calls and the exact same thing happens. This is very frustrating. A letter was drafted but not sent to the vendor about four months ago. Tim Hardy stated the vendor is aware of the list of unresolved items and clearly understands the issues. Having the committee backing is important for addressing these issues with the vendor. A motion to authorize the Chairman to send letter to the vendor expressing the County's standpoints on this issue was moved by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Shay. Discussion. Mr. Shay stated this is a critical operation and meetings should have been held frequently regarding these issues. He would send a letter every day. The motion to authorize the Chairman to send letter to the vendor expressing the County's standpoints on this issue was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shay and adopted. Mr. Pitts also thanked Mr. Cook for his years of service to the County and further added nothing against Mr. Cook but he is disturbed that he and this committee had to hear about him leaving from news on the street. That was just wrong.

Sheriff's Department Budget Amendment - A Sheriff budget amendment moving forfeiture funds from contractual (.4) to equipment (.2) and forward to the Finance Committee was moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.

Discussion regarding Public Safety Director Position – Should the committee look at separating the 911 center and emergency services. The Sheriff stated he is not campaigning to take over the 911 center. Mr. Pitts stated the desire to put rumors to rest that no decision has been made on moving the 911 center/any changes to this department. In the absence of the Public Safety Director, the Chairman of the Board takes over the reins of the department. Mr. Hayes suggested an interim director for a time. Chairman Suprenant stated the department has competent staff in place. Ray Rathbun, Fire Coordinator, suggested hiring Bill Cook back on a part time basis. Tim Hardy stated with all the looming issues this is a major concern with this giant change. He stated we are coming into storm season. He stated perhaps part time is an option noting also all the grants being worked on. Mr. Haff stated this is the first the committee has discussed this and the need for a cohesive plan. This position will be discussed tomorrow at the Personnel Committee meeting.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 2:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Prehoda, Clerk Washington County Board of Supervisors